

## DBQ: The Break-Up

**Historical Context:** In 2010, Robby Smith and Kayla Westin were both in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade at IDEA College Prep School in San Antonio, Texas. The school is a K-12 building. They had been going out with one another since 8<sup>th</sup> grade when they met on their school's swim team. They were in the same group of friends and actually had math class together. Everyone always thought they looked so happy together. Although they were taking difficult classes in the gifted program, they still managed to make time to see one another during the week and on the weekends. Even when they got to high school, things were still great. Things started to go downhill at the beginning of their sophomore year, school year 2009-2010. They broke-up at the end of the year in May 2010. By mid-July of the same year, both Robby and Kayla were seeing other people.

- **Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying documents in Part 1. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the *source* of the document and the *author's point of view*. For Part 2, you will answer the essay question below:

**Document-Based Question:** *What caused the break-up between Robby and Kayla?*

- **Part 1:** The following documents will help you understand the series of events that led to the break-up. Examine each document carefully and answer the questions that follow.

### Document A

Source: Kayla Westin, student at IDEA Prep and girlfriend of Robby Smith, graffiti on a desk in Ms. King's classroom, August 2009

Nuthin can come btwn uz. Robby & Kayla 4eva

☐ Primary Source ☐ Secondary Source

- ❖ Based on the illustration, what can we infer about Kayla's feelings for Robby? What does she believe to be true in terms of their relationship?

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### Document B

Source: Robby Smith, student and boyfriend of Kayla Westin, posting on his Facebook profile, November 2009

"To all your haters out there... Kayla and I are fine! We might've had that fight at the swim meet last weekend, but let me just say this—we are still together! That is never going to change! Kayla means so much to me, and we've been together for so long now that nothing is going to come between us."

☐ Primary Source ☐ Secondary Source

- ❖ In Robby's view, as expressed by the preceding document, what is the state of the relationship between him and Kayla? Who is Robby addressing and why? What insight does this give us to their peers' feelings about their relationship?

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**Document C**

Source: Derek Johnson, friend of Kayla Westin, note passed to Kayla at school, January 2010

“Kayla, I just found out its true. Yes, it is true. My friend Jason was there and he said he actually saw it happen. So Robby is just lying to you. He is lying to you. I just wanted you to know...I’m not trying to break the two of you up or anything, I just think that you’re special and you deserve to be treated better. I’d never lie to you like that, that’s for sure.”

☐ Primary Source ☐ Secondary Source

❖ Is this a reliable source? Why or why not?

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❖ If Derek had been writing this note to a different person, would the reliability of this source have changed?

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❖ Look at the language carefully. What does Derek emphasize? How is he emphasizing this point?\_\_\_\_\_

❖ Where in the note do you feel that he starts to act suspicious?

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### Document D

Source: Robby, student at IDEA Prep and boyfriend of Kayla Westin, text messages to his friend David Rodman, January 2010

Robby: yo itz not even tru

David: dude you lie

Robby: NO! I swear I quzn't even there

Robby: wuzn't\*

David: Man, be real. Every1 knows

☐ Primary Source ☐ Secondary Source

- ❖ Does this document make Robby seem more or less innocent of doing something suspicious? Why or why not?

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### Document E

Source: Ana Cassis, friend of Kayla Westin, note from another friend of Kayla Westin, Calli Barnett, September 2009

“Ana, don’t get it twisted. Ok, so she did really like Justin. DON’T TELL ANYONE! But she says it was just a summer thing. All they did was talk. And Robby was gone all summer with his family in Minnesota and she only liked Justin, so STOP spreading rumors about her! Don’t open your mouth unless you know the facts!”

☐ Primary Source ☐ Secondary Source

- ❖ What do you believe motivated Calli Barnett to write this letter? What information does this give us about Kayla? Is it reliable?

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## Document F

Source: Kayla, student, private Facebook message to friend Ana Cassis, April 2010.

"I'm just sick of him! I know for a fact he's flirting with other girls on the swim team. But he always lies to me and says he isn't. I've been talking to Derek a lot lately and everything he says just makes so much sense. He's so smart and nice... and cute! I don't know what to do anymore, Ana!"

☐ Primary Source ☐ Secondary Source

- ❖ Based on our knowledge of events thus far, what can you predict was Ana's response to Kayla's message?

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## Document G

Source: Mr. S, 10<sup>th</sup> grade teacher of Robby Smith, discipline referral written for Robby Smith, April 2010

"Student was engaged in an altercation with another student in the hall outside of my classroom. Student was shouting aggressively and did not respond to verbal warning to stop. Please contact parents. Behavior is out of the ordinary for this student."

☐ Primary Source ☐ Secondary Source

- ❖ Who do you think Robby had an altercation with? \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ What outside factors may have led to his behavior?

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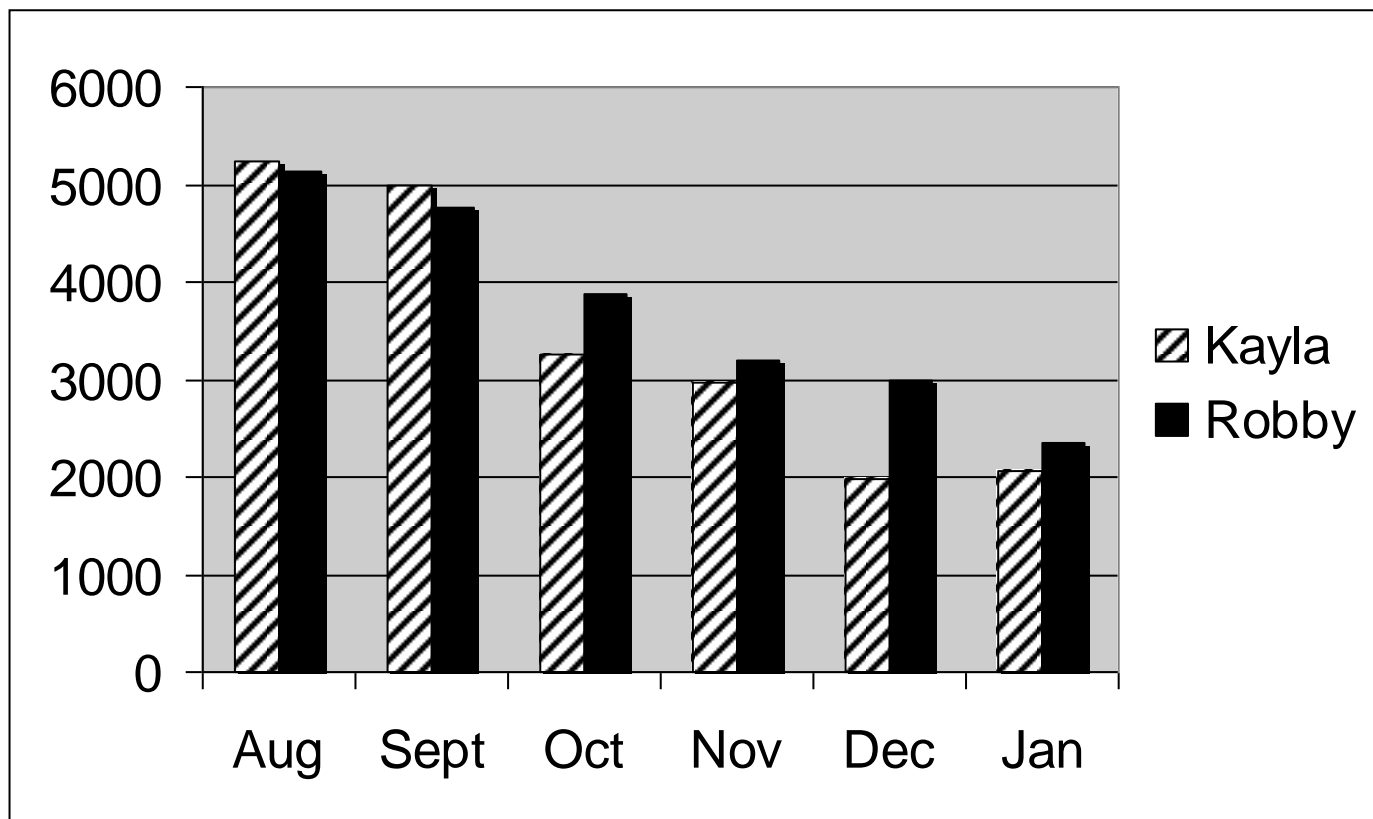
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## Document H

Source: Cricket Wireless, data from cellular phone bills, Summary of text messages, August 2009 through January 2010



☐ Primary Source   ☐ Secondary Source

- ❖ Hypothesis: Based on your knowledge of this relationship, explain the trend we see from August to December. What factors might account for rises and declines in the number of texts received?

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- **Part B:** Construct a well-organized essay that proves your thesis. The essay should be logically presented and should include information both from the documents and from your own analysis.

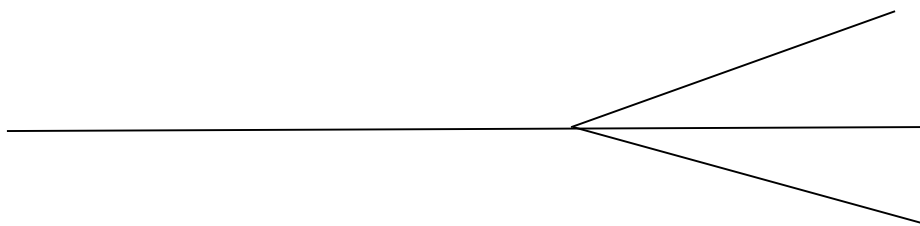
**Document-Based Question:** *What caused the break-up between Robby and Kayla?*

### *Making a Thesis Statement*

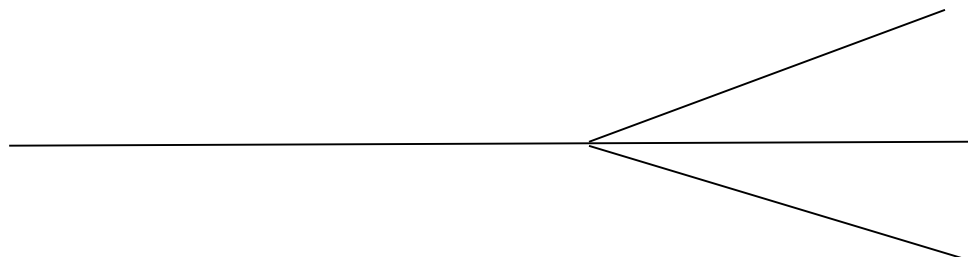
- 1) A thesis statement is a sentence, normally at the end of the introduction paragraph, that explains to your reader what your essay will be about.
- 2) A good thesis statement (like the ones you will need to write) will have 3 reasons in them explaining what will happen next.
- 3) We can write a good thesis statement by
  - Flipping the question and starting our answer with it
  - Coming up with 3 strong reasons why we answered the way we did

- 4) The Chicken Foot can help!

Example Question: What is the best store to shop at?



- 5) We now remember that the point of the DBQ is that you will write a 5-paragraph essay. Let's make a thesis statement for our **real** essay question: "What caused the break-up between Kayla and Robby?"



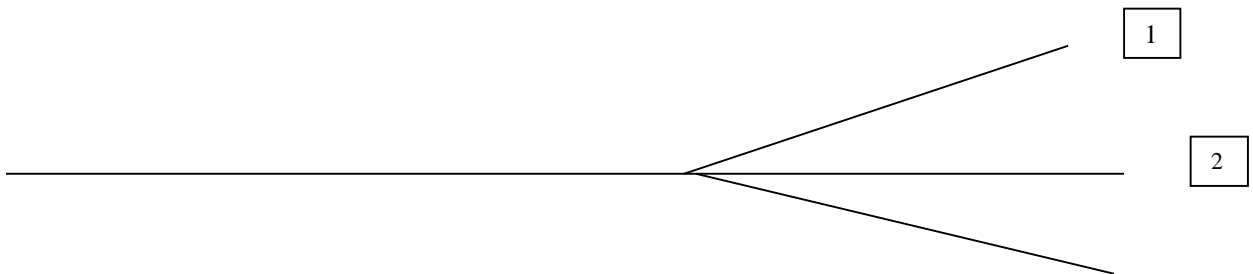
- 6) Finally, let's turn this chicken foot into a complete sentence, so that now our thesis reads:

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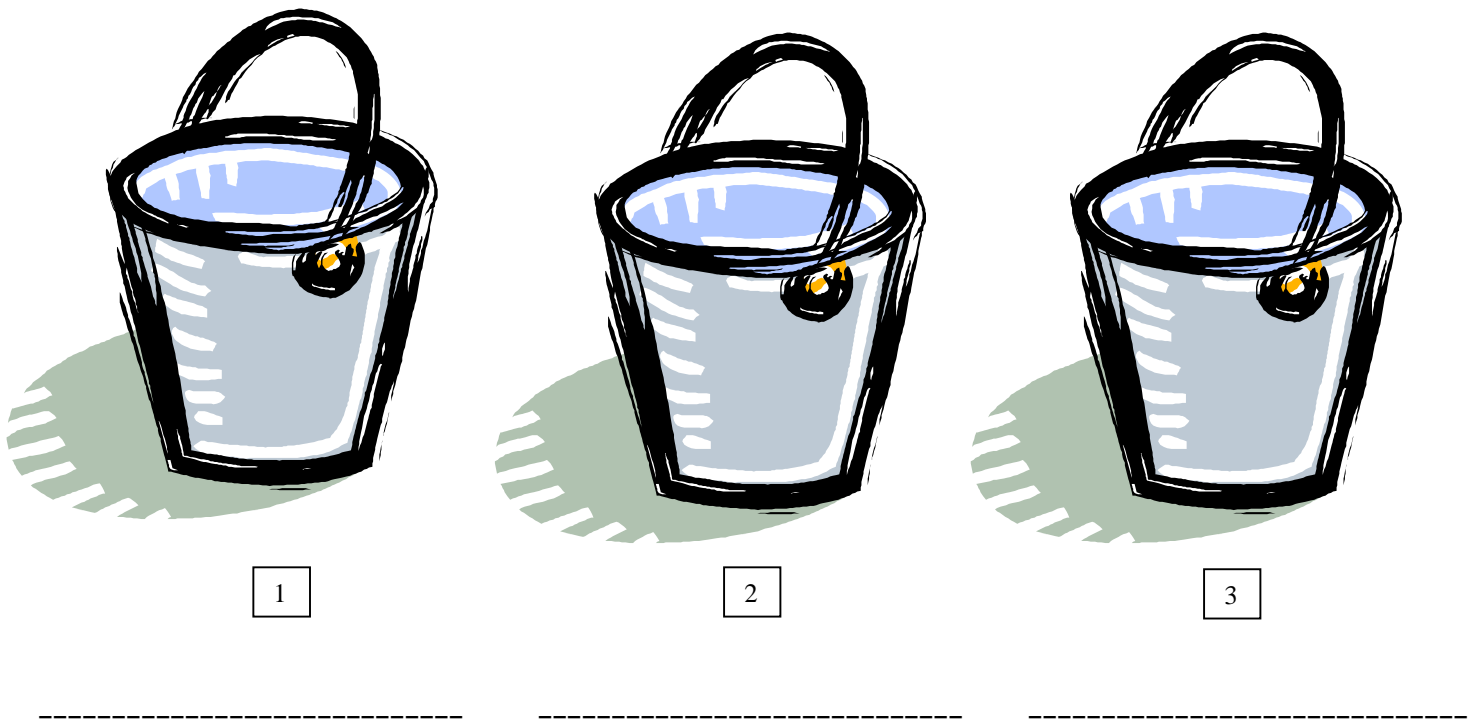
## Bucketing the Documents

DBQ essays are supposed to have documents in them to show your reader where you got your information from. Almost like how a detective would gather clues and evidence to make a case against a criminal- you will use your documents as evidence to prove your thesis

1) Let's remind ourselves of what our thesis statement chicken foot looks like:



2) Now we take each toe, and label our buckets with those names.



Now we go through our documents, and “drop” in the documents we think can help us prove each toe of our thesis, or each reason, is true. Be sure NOT TO LEAVE OUT ANY DOCUMENTS. You must use all of them in your essay.